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09/853,360	05/10/2001	Geoff Grindrod	NETAP012	5696

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SILICON VALLEY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY GROUP  
P.O. BOX 721120  
SAN JOSE, CA 95172-1120

EXAMINER

HIRL, JOSEPH P

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2121

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Applicati n N .

09/853,360

Applicant(s)

GRINDROD ET AL.

Examiner

Joseph P. Hirl

Art Unit

2121

-- The MAILING DATE of this c mmunication appears on th cover she t with th correspondenc address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 February 2004.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12,14-23,25-37 and 39-68 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-12,14-23,25-37 and 39-68 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 05 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

### DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to an AMENDMENT entered February 5, 2004 for the patent application 09/853,360 filed on May 10, 2001.

2. The First Office Action of November 18, 2003 is fully incorporated into this Final Office Action by reference.

3. The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention.

"Office personnel are to give the claims their broadest reasonable interpretation in light of the supporting disclosure. *In re Morris*, 127 F.3d 1048, 1054-55, 44USPQ2d 1023, 1027-28 (Fed. Cir. 1997). Limitations appearing in the specification but not recited in the claim are not read into the claim. *In re Prater*, 415 F.2d, 1393, 1404-05, 162 USPQ 541, 550-551 (CCPA 1969)" (MPEP p 2100-8, c 2, I 45-48; p 2100-9, c 1, I 1-4). The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense. Examiner will reference prior art using terminology familiar to one of ordinary skill in the art. Such an approach is broad in concept and can be either explicit or implicit in meaning.

4. Examiner's Opinion:

Para 3 above applies. The claims and only the claims form the metes and bounds of the invention. The Examiner has full latitude to interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense.

***Status of Claims***

5. Claims 1, 12, 23, 34, 45 and 57 are amended. Claims 2, 13, 24 and 38 are cancelled. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-23, 25-37 and 39-68 are pending.

***Response to Arguments***

6. The objection to the drawings is withdrawn.

7. Applicant's arguments filed on February 5, 2004 related to Claims 1, 3-12, 14-23, 25-37 and 39-68 have been fully considered but are not persuasive.

In reference to Applicant's argument:

The Examiner relies on the following paragraph in Helgeson to make a prior art showing of the following subject matter of Claim 2: "wherein the entering of data includes selectively enabling and disabling the business logic rule via the content page provided by the server."

[0019; A second Internet-based method is disclosed for implementing a business application using high-level object oriented technology and frameworks, the method providing a client input device having a user interface (UI) wherein the user selects a command and a display device whereby results are displayed, and transmits the command to a server computer hosting a business application management system platform, which includes a WDK: Web interface server for receiving the user selected command and for processing a web document that is a custom presentation of information- This second Internet-based method also includes receiving at the client input device a display of results relating to the command, the results obtained by an information distributor server electronically coupled to the WDK Web interface server for generating metadata for a business object, for storing the metadata in a metadata database, for querying the metadata database when asked to do so by a requestor, and for providing the results of a match to a query to the requestor; whereby the business application is available via the Internet to assist a user in performing a specific business operation which requires location of and use of business objects and display of results of the specific business operation to the user in a dynamically selectable format.

After careful review of such excerpt as well as the remaining Helgeson reference, applicant notes that Helgeson merely discloses a user interface for selecting a command for processing a web document.. Further, examples of commands are set forth in the Helgeson disclosure to include cut/copy/paste commands (see paragraph [0556]). In sharp contrast, applicant teaches and claims entering of data that includes "selectively enabling and disabling the business logic rule via the content page provided by the server."

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The Examiner makes a note that applicant's claim language is met by custom presentation of information. Applicant respectfully disagrees, as it appears that the Examiner is not taking into consideration the full weight of applicant's claim language.

Specifically, Helgeson fails to disclose, teach or suggest any sort of content page that allows entry of data with the specific capability of selectively enabling and disabling the business logic rule. Instead, Helgeson teaches selection of a command with which processing (not "enabling and disabling") of a web document (not "a business logic rule") is carried out.

Only applicant teaches and claims such a unique ability of enabling and disabling the business logic rule in the specific context of the remaining claim limitations.

Examiner's response:

Para 3 above applies. Claim 2 was cancelled by the applicant and the substance moved to claim 1. To one of ordinary skill in the art, a business application is made up of business logic rules. Selectively enabling and disabling business logic rule means implementing the high level object oriented technology which is binary logic based, meaning that it is selectively enabled and disabled (on, off; 1, 0; etc). The content page provided by the server is a portion of display memory that contains one complete full-screen image and according to Helgeson in the quoted passage, "the user selects a command and a display device whereby results are displayed, and transmits the command to a server computer hosting a business application management system platform, which includes a WDK: Web interface server for receiving the user selected command and for processing a web document that is a custom presentation of information." Hence the comment, "such is accomplished by custom presentation of information." The applicant is reminded that the Examiner is obligated to "interpret each claim in the broadest reasonable sense." Helgeson anticipates the applicant's invention.

**Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102**

8. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

9. Claims ~~1-68~~ <sup>1-12, 14-23, 25-37, 39-48</sup> are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Helgeson et al (US Pub 2002/0049749 referred to as Helgeson).\

**Claims 1, 12**

Helgeson anticipates serving a content page to a client browser of a client by a server, the content page allowing for entering and modifying of data relating to a business logic rule (**Helgeson**, p 0019); generating data by the server according to a predefined format from information received via the content page (**Helgeson**, p 0019); and automatically committing the generated data in the predefined format into a database, the database storing data including data relating to business logic rules for implementing business logic as entries in the database, the generated data being committed into a corresponding entry in the database (**Helgeson**, p 0019); wherein upon said committing, the committed database business rule entry is ready for execution by the business logic application (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Examiner's Note (EN): see Helgeson at Fig. 2 for a typical computer implementation); wherein entering of data includes selectively enabling and disabling the business logic rule via the content page

provided by the server (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: such is accomplished by custom presentation of information).

**Claims 3, 8, 14, 19, 25, 30, 39, 42**

Helgeson anticipates data for each business rule includes general information data, condition data, action data, and schedule data (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: data of various types are used by business objects and expressed via software related to the content page).

**Claims 4, 15, 26, 35**

Helgeson anticipates automatically verifying the entry corresponding to the business logic rule in the predefined format using DTDs (Document Type Definitions) (**Helgeson**, p 0019; p 0530; EN: it is axiomatic that an entry is verified since there is no other way of proceeding).

**Claims 5, 16, 27, 36**

Helgeson anticipates committing the entered data according to the predefined format includes committing the entered data according to a predefined XML format (**Helgeson**, Abstract).

**Claims 6, 17, 28, 35, 37**

Helgeson anticipates automatically verifying the entry corresponding to the business logic rule in the predefined XML format using DTDs (Document Type Definitions) (see references for claims 4 and 5; EN: server will host application).

**Claims 7, 18, 29**

Helgeson anticipates serving the content page to the client browser includes serving an expression builder content page for entering and modifying of the data relating to the business logic rule expressed as an expression having symbols to be resolved when an instance of the business rule is one of created and executed by the business logic application (**Helgeson**, p 2 above applies; p 0019; EN: expression builder is a grouping of software, all software operates with symbols).

**Claims 9, 20, 31, 43**

Helgeson anticipates data for each business rule includes action data, the action data selectively includes action data expressed as an expression via the expression builder content page (**Helgeson**, p 2 above applies; p 0019; EN: all data is in one form or another action data albeit potential and such information will be operated on (expressed) by software).

**Claims 10, 21, 32, 44**

Helgeson anticipates data for each business rule includes condition data, the condition data selectively includes a condition expressed as an expression via the expression builder content page (**Helgeson**, p 2 above applies; p 0019; EN: all data is in one form or another conditioned data including action data and such information will be operated on (expressed) by software).

**Claims 11, 22, 33**

Helgeson anticipates said serving the content page to the client browser includes serving a business rules management content page for displaying business rules stored as entries in the database and for allowing one of selecting to create a new business



rule and selecting to modify an existing business rule (**Helgeson**, p 2 above applies; p 0019; EN: the information content of the browser represents the business rules which were stored in a database and the browser provides the interface that accommodates changing such rules (objects).

#### **Claim 23**

Helgeson anticipates a client having a client browser (**Helgeson**, p 0019); a database for storing data including data relating to business logic rules for implementing business logic as entries in the database (**Helgeson**, p 0019); and a server having a web server adapted to serve at least one content page to the client browser for entering and modifying of the data of a business logic rule corresponding to an entry in the database (**Helgeson**, p 0019), wherein said server is adapted to automatically commit an entry corresponding to the business logic rule into the database according to a predefined format after modifications via the content page at said client browser and wherein the committed database business rule entry is ready for execution upon commitment by said server (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Fig. 1); wherein each business logic rule can be selectively enabled via the content page provided by the server at the client browser (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: Browser makes selections that engage rules that are software coded).

#### **Claim 34**

Helgeson anticipates a web server in communication with a client browser of a client and adapted to serve at least one non-programmatic interactive user page to the client browser for obtaining data for a customized business logic rule (**Helgeson**, p

0019; EN: non-programmatic is not defined in the specification but since it is interactive, the Helgeson's user interface would qualify since it is interactive); and an application server in communication with a database containing data relating to business logic rules for implementing business logic as entries in the database (**Helgeson**, p 0019); wherein the data obtained for the customized business logic rule corresponds to an entry in the database (**Helgeson**, p 0019); wherein the application server is adapted to dynamically and automatically commit the data as an entry corresponding to the customized business logic rule into the database in a predefined format after obtaining the data via the user page at said client Browser (**Helgeson**, p 0019); and wherein the committed database business rule entry is ready for execution upon commitment by said application server (**Helgeson**, p 0019); wherein each business logic rule in the database can be selectively enabled via the at least one non-programmatic interactive user page (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: see above comments).

#### **Claim 40**

Helgeson anticipates at least one non-programmatic interactive user page includes a business rules management page for displaying business rules stored as entries in the database and for allowing one of selecting to create a new business rule and selecting to modify an existing business rule (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: see comments re claim 34).

#### **Claim 41**

Helgeson anticipates at least one non-programmatic interactive user page includes an expression builder page expressing data of the business logic rule as an

expression having at least one symbol that is to be resolved when an instance of the business rule is one of created and executed (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: see comments re claim 34).

**Claim 45**

EN: re claim 45 and dependents. Scheduling of tasks is a generic task of a software program operating in the processor environment of Helgeson's Figs. 1 and 2.

Helgeson anticipates writing an event job into a job queue for each occurrence of an event having at least one business rule based on occurrence thereof (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: the event is initiated at the user interface; the business rule is the associated command and the job queue is such user activity of at least length one); creating a business rule instance for each business rule corresponding to the event job (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: rules follow the operation of the business application management system); testing conditions of each business instance job (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: tests follow the operation of the business application management system); writing the business rule instance into the job queue corresponding to each business instance for which the conditions testing succeeds (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: saving follows successful testing in the operation of the business application management system); deleting the event job from the job queue (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system); executing the business rule instance (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system); and deleting the business rule instance from the job queue (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system; para 2 above applies);

wherein the business logic rules can be selectively enabled via a content page provided by a server at a client browser (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: Browser makes selections that engage rules that are software coded).

**Claims 46, 58**

Helgeson anticipates scheduling the business rule instance, wherein said executing the business rule instance is according to said scheduling (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system).

**Claims 47, 59**

Helgeson anticipates scheduling the business rule instance is selected from the group consisting of delaying job execution, rescheduling job execution, scheduling repeat executions, and suspending execution (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system).

**Claim 48**

Helgeson anticipates testing conditions of the business rule instance (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system); if the instance conditions testing fails, deleting the business rule instance from the job queue (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system); and if the instance conditions testing succeeds: executing actions specified by the business rule instance, and deleting the business rule instance from the job queue (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system).

**Claim 49**

Helgeson anticipates scheduling execution using an execution schedule as determined according to scheduling data of the business rule instance (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system); and executing actions specified by the business rule instance according to the execution schedule (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: operation of the business application management system).

**Claims 50, 62**

Helgeson anticipates resolving embedded pre-queue symbols in expressions of the event job corresponding to the business rule (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: to one of ordinary skill in the art, all software has embedded symbols of whatever vintage).

**Claims 51, 53**

Helgeson anticipates parsing the expression hierarchically (**Helgeson**, Fig. 2; EN: to one of ordinary skill in the art, parsing is a genetic skill in computer science); and resolving the symbols in a recursive manner (**Helgeson**, Fig. 2; EN: to one of ordinary skill in the art, parsing is a genetic skill in computer science).

**Claim 52**

Helgeson anticipates resolving embedded post-queue symbols in expressions of the business rule instance (**Helgeson**, Fig. 2; EN: to one of ordinary skill in the art, all software is symbol based and operations on such symbols is generic).

**Claim 54**

Helgeson anticipates monitoring for incoming notification events (**Helgeson**, p 0019); and reporting the incoming notification events to the business process system (**Helgeson**, p 0019).

**Claim 55**

Helgeson anticipates said executing the business rule instance includes selectively transmitting an outgoing notification (**Helgeson**, p 0019).

**Claims 56, 68**

Helgeson anticipates the outgoing notification is selected from the group consisting of mail, pager notification, Telalert, and NT network message notifications (**Helgeson**, p 0105).

**Claim 57**

Helgeson anticipates a job queue module for maintaining a job queue and processing jobs in the job queue (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Fig. 2; EN: to one of ordinary skill in the art, job queue are generic to a computer program; a processor is the fastest element in a computer and will always have a waiting queue of tasks...unless the job is completed...and then there is internal house keeping); and a notification module in communication with said job queue module for monitoring for incoming notification events and reporting the incoming notification events to the job queue module (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Fig. 2), wherein said job queue module writes an event job corresponding to a business logic rule to the job queue upon receiving an incoming notification event that matches a triggering event of the business logic rule (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Fig. 2); said job queue module tests conditions of the business logic rule corresponding to the event job, deletes the event job from the job queue, and, if conditions of the business logic rule are met, writes a business rule instance to the job queue (**Helg son**, p 0019; Fig. 2); and said job queue module processes the business

rule instance and deletes the business rule instance from the job queue (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Fig. 2; EN: to one of ordinary skill in the art, this claim represents the straight forward application of generic computer science where there is nothing new and it is very obvious); wherein the business logic rules can be selectively enabled via a content page provided by a server at a client browser (**Helgeson**, p 0019; EN: Browser makes selections that engage rules that are software coded).

#### **Claim 60**

Helgeson anticipates job queue module processes the business rule instance includes testing conditions of the business rule instance, executing actions specified by the business rule instance if the conditions testing succeeds, and deleting the business rule instance from the job queue (**Helgeson**, p 0019).

#### **Claim 61**

Helgeson anticipates the job queue module executes actions specified by the business rule instance includes scheduling execution according to scheduling data of the business rule instance and executing actions specified by the business rule instance according to the execution scheduling (**Helgeson**, p 0019).

#### **Claims 63, 65**

Helgeson anticipates the job queue module resolves embedded pre-queue symbols by parsing the expression hierarchically and resolving the symbols in a recursive manner (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Fig. 2; EN: to one of ordinary skill in the art, this claim represents the straight forward application of generic computer science where there is nothing new and it is very obvious).

**Claim 64**

Helgeson anticipates the job queue resolves any embedded post-queue symbols in expressions of the business rule instance (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Fig. 2; EN: to one of ordinary skill in the art, symbols are part of software and of course, the software will resolve such symbols).

**Claim 66**

Helgeson anticipates the notification module monitors for incoming notification events and reports the incoming notification events to the job queue module (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Fig. 2).

**Claim 67**

Helgeson anticipates the job queue module processes the business rule instance by selectively transmitting an outgoing notification to the notification module (**Helgeson**, p 0019; Fig. 2).

***Conclusion***

10. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within



TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

11. Claims 1, 3-12, 14-23, 25-37 and 39-68 are rejected.

***Correspondence Information***

12. Any inquiry concerning this information or related to the subject disclosure should be directed to the Examiner, Joseph P. Hirl, whose telephone number is (703) 305-1668. The Examiner can be reached on Monday – Thursday from 6:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

If attempts to reach the Examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the Examiner's supervisor, Anthony Knight can be reached at (703) 308-3179.

Any response to this office action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks,

Washington, D. C. 20231;

or faxed to:

(703) 746-7239 (for formal communications intended for entry);

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(703) 746-7290 (for informal or draft communications with notation of  
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Hand-delivered responses should be brought to:

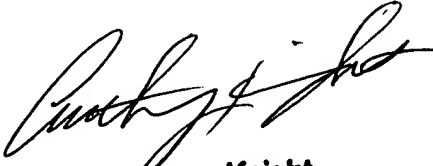
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2121 Crystal Drive,

Arlington, Virginia.

  
Joseph P. Hiri

April 15, 2004

  
**Anthony Knight**  
**Supervisory Patent Examiner**  
**Group 3600**